



Aruba's firefighters provide a day of thrills for islanders

Kicking off seven days of events for "International Fire Prevention Week" Aruba's Brandweer opened the gates of their headquarters adjacent to the airport to the public on Sunday, October 8. A full day of fun and information awaited those that attended, including flea markets, fun food and refreshments, kiddy pools and excitement for all ages.

Thrilling demonstrations of firefighting procedures were enlightening and entertaining, as this year's theme, "Prevention of home and kitchen fires" was demonstrated. Children and adults had the opportunity to handle and learn about the various equipment the firemen use, and lifesaving first techniques like CPR were graphically displayed by Manuel Ramos and Edgar Garcia of the La Cabana Emergency Response Brigade.

The highlight of the day came towards the end, when those that stayed were rewarded with a face off by top firefighters in full regalia going through their paces during the afternoon heat. Ivo Maduro won the demonstration match of an exercise that would normally be part of the Firefighter's Combat Challenge, which held annually. The day ended with a 10/5 kilometer fun/run.

The week will continue with various events including a family day for the firefighters at Arawa Water Park, a mass at the San Francisco Church in Oranjestad and a softball tournament. Fire Prevention Week is a time when the community acknowledges the Brandweer for their hard work and risks they take during the year, and when the firefighters welcome the public in return. Both firefighters, many of whom donate their time, and families alike enjoy the annual open house.